

Wisconsin Department of Transportation

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Jim Doyle Governor Frank J. Busalacchi Secretary

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Glenn Tilton, Chairman, President & CEO United Airlines PO Box 66919 Chicago, IL 60666

Dear Mr. Tilton:

Just over a month ago, Wisconsin Governor Jim Doyle, U.S. Senator Herb Kohl and I helped dedicate a \$6.8 million passenger rail facility at Milwaukee County's General Mitchell International Airport (GMIA). As one of only four Amtrak stations directly serving airports in the United States, the Milwaukee Airport Rail Station (MARS) provides a convenient and dependable travel connection – especially for air travelers seeking to avoid the congestion and delays associated with Chicago's O'Hare International Airport.

During its first two weeks of operation alone, the MARS facility accommodated nearly 800 passengers, with about 90% of travelers using the station to get to or from Chicago. As the popularity of this new airport/passenger rail connection grows, I hope you will consider promoting the new MARS facility as an attractive option for northern Illinois travelers utilizing your airline to fly out of GMIA.

Amtrak's Hiawatha Service provides seven daily round trips connecting MARS and downtown Chicago in about 90 minutes, while delivering the best on-time performance of any Amtrak route. Last year, over 470,000 passengers utilized the Hiawatha Service – the highest ridership total since Wisconsin began supporting the service in 1989. A free shuttle bus service provides a five-minute link between GMIA and the MARS facility.

As you know, today's travelers are looking not only for value, but also for convenience, comfort and dependability. The new MARS facility, GMIA and Amtrak's Hiawatha Service deliver on all counts. We are confident that southeast Wisconsin's growing economy coupled with this convenient new airport/rail connection means your airline will discover a growing business and leisure travel market out of GMIA.

Our department's Web site (http://www.dot.wisconsin.gov/travel/rail/mars.htm) provides more information on the MARS facility, train schedules, etc. Please feel free to link to it from your airline's own Internet site. If there is anything else we can do to assist in any way, do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

Frank J. Busalacchi

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Secretary

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